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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/875,814	06/05/2001	Ashvinkumar J. Sanghvi	MS1-689US	5999
22801	7590	12/04/2003	EXAMINER	
LEE & HAYES PLLC 421 W RIVERSIDE AVENUE SUITE 500 SPOKANE, WA 99201			SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2126	4

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/875,814

Applicant(s)

SANGHVI ET AL.

Examiner

Mohammad A Siddiqi

Art Unit

2126

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-29 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Natarajan et al. (6584502) (hereinafter Natarajan) .

4. As per claim 1, Natarajan discloses a method comprising:

Identifying multiple policies to be combined together (figure 2, element 254, col 14, lines 20-27);

determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies (col 14, lines 5-8);

adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set (col 14, lines 5-19); and

resolving conflicting policies by selecting a preferred (col 14, lines 5-19) policy and including the preferred policy in the merged policy set (col 14, lines 33-40).

5. As per claims 2 and 15, Natarajan the preferred policy represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the multiple policies (col 14, lines 5-19).

6. As per claim 3, Natarajan determining an allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies (col 14, lines 5-19).

7. As per claim 4, Natarajan the preferred policy is contained within an allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies (col 14, lines 5-19).

8. As per claims 5 and 16, Natarajan deleting policies that are outside an allowed range of values (col 14, lines 5-19 and col 14, lines 33-35), wherein the allowed range of values is associated with the multiple policies (col 14, lines 5-19).

9. As per claims 6 and 22, Natarajan selecting a preferred policy includes:

arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local policies (figure 2, element 270, 274A, 274 B, col 18, lines 40-59);

determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates (col 30, lines 5-35); and

selecting the preferred policy template based on the intersection of the conflicting policy templates (col 30, lines 5-35).

10. As per claim 7, Natarajan selecting a preferred policy includes:

Arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local policies (col 18, lines 40-59);

determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates (col 39-46); and

selecting the preferred policy template based on the policy template closest to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policy templates (col 30, lines 5-35).

11. As per claims 8, 17, and 28, Natarajan the policies are event-handling policies (figure 2, element 270, 274A, 274 B).

12. As per claims 9,18, and 25, Natarajan the policies define how a device is to be configured (col 8, lines 10-38).

13. As per claims 10,26, and 29, Natarajan the policies identify the types of events that are provided to each device (col 10, lines 40-50).

14. As per claim 11, Natarajan resolving conflicting policies includes comparing related policies individually (col 14, lines 2-20).

15. As per claims 12 and 23, Natarajan wherein the method is implemented by a management module (col 19, lines 1-15).

16. As per claims 13 and 19, Natarajan One or more computer-readable memories (figure 5A, element 63,65, lines 46-51) containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform (col 12, lines 46-59).

17. As per claim 14, Natarajan discloses A method comprising:
 identifying multiple policies to be combined together (figure 2, element 254, col 14, lines 5-8);
 determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies (col 14, lines 5-8); adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set;
 arranging conflicting policies in order from global policies to local policies (figure 2, element 270, 274 A, 274 B, col 18, lines 40-59);

determining an intersection of the conflicting policies (col 14, lines 5-8); and

selecting a preferred policy based on the policy closest to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policies (col 30, lines 5-35).

18. As per claim 20, Natarajan discloses An apparatus comprising:

a storage device configured to store a merged policy set (Col 13, lines 45-57 and col 14, lines 33-42); and

a management module coupled to the storage device and configured to identify multiple policies to be merged into the merged policy set (figure 2, element 260,262,252, Col 19, lines 1-16 and col 14, lines 33-42), wherein the management module adds non-conflicting policies to the merged policy set and resolves conflicts among conflicting policies (Col 13, lines 45-57 and col 14, lines 2-15).

19. As per claim 21, Natarajan discloses resolving conflicts among conflicting policies includes selecting a preferred policy and including the preferred policy in the merged policy set (col 14, lines 5-8).

20. As per claim 24, Natarajan discloses the management module receives event data generated by a plurality of event providers coupled to the management module (figure 2, element 260,262,252, Col 19, lines 1-16).

21. As per claim 27, Natarajan discloses one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that (col 12, 60-65), when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to (col 13, lines 4-11):

- identify multiple policies to be combined together in a merged policy set (figure 2, element 254, col 14, lines 20-27);

- determine whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies; include non-conflicting policies in the merged policy set (col 14, lines 5-8);

- resolve conflicting policies by: selecting an allowed policy range (col 14, lines 5-19);

- selecting a preferred policy range that is included in the allowed policy range (col 14, lines 33-40); and

- including the preferred policy range in the merged policy set (col 14, lines 5-19).

Conclusion

22. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent 6058416 to Mukherjee et al.

U.S. Patent 6269473 to Freed et al.

U.S. Patent 6154849 to Xia et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad A Siddiqi whose telephone number is (703) 305-0353. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 306-5404.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

MAS

 **JOHN FOLLANSBEE**
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100